

## Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 RSR-01 /071 W  
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O R 092230 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1225

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1617

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN GOES INTO FINAL DAY

1. SUMMARY: MOST PARTIES CLOSED CAMPAIGNS WITH RALLIES BUT CAN PROSELYTIZE SOME HOURS LONGER VIA TELEVISION AND PRESS. POSITION OF FRENTE JUSTICIALISTA AND ALIANZA POPULAR MAY HAVE STRENGTHENED SOMEWHAT DURING WEEK. OTHER PARTIES REMAIN ESSENTIALLY AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. BUENOS AIRES IS INCREASINGLY SEIZED BY POLITICAL FEVER AS ELECTION DAY APPROACHES. LARGE CROWDS ARGUING POLITICS IN EVIDENCE ALL ALONG FLORIDA STREET AND CITY IS COVERED WITH POSTERS AND HANDBILLS. POLITICAL PARTIES CLOSED THEIR CAMPAIGNS LAST NIGHT WITH RALLIES IN BUENOS AIRES AND OTHER CITIES. THEY CAN CONTINUE TO PROSELYTIZE ON TELEVISION TODAY AND VIA NEWSPAPERS TOMORROW. ALL PROSELYTIZING MUST END ON MARCH 10, HOWEVER.

3. MOST IMPRESSIVE RALLY WAS THAT OF FRENTE JUSTICIALISTA HELD IN BUENOS AIRES SOCCER STADIUM. IT DREW ESTIMATED 70 TO 100 THOUSAND ENTHUSIASTIC ADHERENTS. GOVT ( READ, LANUSSE) APPEARS TO HAVE TRIED DURING PAST WEEK OR SO TO SMEAR PERONISTS THROUGH PAID POLITICAL ADS AUTHORED BY " COMMITTEE FOR DEFENSE OF THE  
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REPUBLIC" RAISING INIQUITIES OF PERON PERIOD ( SEE SEPTTEL).  
THIS AND OTHER HARASSMENT NOT LIKELY TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON  
THOSE ALREADY INCLINED TO VOTE FOR FRENTE-- MOST OF WHOM WILL  
PROBABLY SEE FINE HAND OF GOVT BEHIND CAMPAIGN/ BUT COULD  
HAVE SOME INFLUENCE WITH THOSE STILL UNDECIDED. HOWEVER,  
FRENTE' S POSITION, JUDGING FROM MASSIVE RALLY AND OTHER  
MANIFESTATIONS OF POPULAR SUPPORT, MAY HAVE STRENGTHENED  
SOMEWHAT DURING PAST WEEK. ITS CHANCES OF WINNING ON FIRST  
ROUND, HOWEVER, REMAIN SLIM.

4. ALIANZA POPULAR RALLY WAS ALSO IMPRESSIVE, DRAWING  
APPROXIMATELY 50 THOUSAND TO ATLANTA STADIUM IN BUENOS AIRES.  
ALENDE BROUGHT CROWD TO FEET WITH ATTACK ON FOREIGN INTERESTS,  
ESPECIALLY U. S. ALENDE- SUELDO TICKET HAS BENEFITED ALSO  
DURING PAST WEEK FROM FREE TELEVISION SPOTS DURING WHICH  
ALENDE HAS SHOWN TO ADVANTAGE. DEMAGOGIC OR NOT, HE IS  
WIDELY CONSIDERED MOST EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SPEAKER AND  
CAMPAIGNER IN THE RACE. WITH FUNDS, HE MIGHT HAVE COME IN AS  
HIGH AS SECOND. AS IT IS, STRONG FINISH IMPROVES HIS PROSPECTS  
BUT THAT HE WILL GET AS MUCH AS 15 PERCENT MUST STILL BE JUDGED  
UNLIKELY. BUT ALENDE- SUELDO BELIEVE THEY HAVE DECISIVE SWING  
VOTE, AS SUGGESTED BY ONE OF THEIR HANDBILLS, WHICH SAYS IN  
EFFECT THAT A VOTE FOR THEM ON THE FIRST ROUND WILL HELP  
DECIDE THE SECOND.

5. MANRIQUE CLOSED CAMPAIGN WITH RALLY IN ROSARIO ATTENDED BY  
SOME 20 THOUSAND. PREDICTIONS OF HIS VOTING STRENGTH REMAIN  
ESSENTIALLY AS STATED REFTTEL, I. E. ABOUT 15 PERCENT.

6. LEAST IMP  
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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, AR  
**To:** ARA  
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